

HOUSE BILL 3973  
By Maddox

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40,  
Chapter 35 and Title 41, Chapter 21, Part 2,  
relative to sentence reduction credits.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-21-236, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(k) The department of correction shall study the efficacy and feasibility of developing and implementing an incentive program whereby an incarcerated state inmate may be awarded additional sentence credit, not to exceed one (1) year, upon attaining a general equivalency diploma (GED) or other academic degree or educational achievement that is likely to significantly enhance the inmate's employability upon his or her release from imprisonment. During the course of the study, similar incentive programs in the federal correctional system and in other states shall be closely examined to determine the extent, if any, to which such programs actually influence inmate behavior, reduce inmate recidivism, impact crime rates and promote public safety. On or before January 15, 2007, the commissioner shall report the department's written findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the state and local government committee of the senate, the state and local government committee of the house of representatives, the corrections oversight committee, and the education oversight committee.

SECTION 2. This act shall take on becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.